



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 15, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Moisture was prevalent in northwestern counties, while the rest of the State remained primarily dry, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) data, several northwestern counties received over an inch of moisture last week, while southeastern counties remained dry. Areas of the high country received over two inches of moisture. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on October 12, drought conditions remained prevalent in western and southwestern counties and continued to spread last week. Almost 20 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions, and 17 percent of the State was rated in moderate drought. Over four percent of the State was rated in severe drought, up from to last week. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, average temperatures were mixed across the State last week, with eastern counties 2 to 6 degrees above average and some western counties 2 to 8 degrees below average. Northwestern counties received the first snowfall last week and pastures were in good condition. Reporters noted cattle producers were selling and shipping calves. Northeastern counties experienced some windy conditions late in the week. Freezing nighttime temperatures in the San Luis Valley potentially damaged potatoes that remained unharvested. The third cutting of alfalfa in the area was almost complete, and forage quality in pastures was reported as normal for the time of year.

Third cutting of alfalfa is virtually complete, with 97 percent harvested. Warm, dry conditions allowed fourth cutting alfalfa to make significant progress, with 65 percent harvested, jumping ahead of the 5-year average of 64 percent. The corn crop continued to mature, with 83 percent of the crop in the mature stage. Corn harvested for grain advanced well last week, with 33 percent of the acreage harvested. Sugarbeet harvest advanced quickly in northeastern counties with 63 percent of the crop harvested. Harvest of the sunflower crop progressed ahead of the previous year and 5-year average, with 34 percent of the acreage harvested. Trying to beat freezing temperatures, potato harvest progressed quickly in the San Luis Valley last week, with 90 percent of the acreage harvested. Stored feed supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 10 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 67 percent average, and 32 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 96 percent average, and 3 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	97	93	NA	NA
4 th cutting harvested	65	45	64	64
Corn				
Mature	83	68	93	90
Harvested for grain	33	21	26	35
Harvested for silage	98	92	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Harvested	78	64	86	74
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	90	71	87	NA
Proso millet				
Harvested	89	85	96	NA
Sorghum				
Mature	93	79	79	84
Harvested for grain	23	16	37	35
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	63	45	44	52
Sunflowers				
Harvested	34	16	19	31
Winter wheat				
Planted	94	89	94	92
Emerged	59	50	58	62

NA – not available

(-) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.7	7.0	6.7	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	15	14	30	29
Short	41	37	44	31
Adequate	42	48	26	39
Surplus	2	1	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	7	5	33	30
Short	26	27	41	32
Adequate	64	65	26	37
Surplus	3	3	--	1

NA – not available

(-) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	4	4	NA	NA
Poor	9	9	NA	NA
Fair.....	23	23	NA	NA
Good	55	55	NA	NA
Excellent.....	9	9	NA	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	3	18	11
Poor	7	9	25	16
Fair.....	31	34	34	25
Good	47	47	21	40
Excellent.....	12	7	2	8
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	5	6	NA	NA
Poor	20	21	NA	NA
Fair.....	51	42	NA	NA
Good	23	30	NA	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	4	13	20
Poor	5	5	24	23
Fair.....	25	23	29	24
Good	55	53	30	28
Excellent.....	11	15	4	5
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	1	--	5	8
Poor	1	1	14	12
Fair.....	13	14	38	32
Good	77	77	34	39
Excellent.....	8	8	9	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor	1	1	--	NA
Fair.....	28	26	55	NA
Good	55	57	45	NA
Excellent.....	16	16	--	NA
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	16	6
Poor	2	2	17	10
Fair.....	29	20	46	37
Good	64	75	21	42
Excellent.....	5	3	--	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	2
Poor	1	1	3	4
Fair.....	7	8	11	17
Good	82	83	62	63
Excellent.....	9	8	24	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero